



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ arrests Vacherie plant manager for environmental violations

BATON ROUGE –Today, the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality arrested a Gonzales centralized waste plant manager on 78 felony counts. They involved violations of his facility's Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit.

Jeffery Wayne Dabadie, 39, plant manager of Armant Environmental Services, LLC, is accused of allowing for the routine illegal dumping of untreated wastewater on the ground, bypassing discharge into a proper treatment facility and failing to operate and maintain a proper treatment system. DEQ staff took soil samples on the property and determined there were chemicals related to oil and petroleum products on the ground.

“Cutting corners by allowing illegal dumping of untreated wastewater will not be tolerated,” said Jeffrey Nolan, DEQ-CID Manager. “We will continue to protect human health and the environment by pursuing anyone found to be willfully allowing, or engaging in illegal disposals and discharges.”

Knowing violations of LPDES permit provisions, upon convicted, can result in a fine of not less than \$5,000, but no more than \$50,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment for not more than three years, with or without hard labor, or both.

DEQ's civil enforcement division participated in the investigation, along with assistance from the Louisiana State Police and the 23rd Judicial District's District Attorney's Office.

An arrest does not constitute guilt in a criminal case. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.

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